ISSN 0258-5146

UNEP North America News

United Nations Environment Programme

June 1990
Vol. 5, No. 3

UN scientists say climate change will have devastating effects on millions

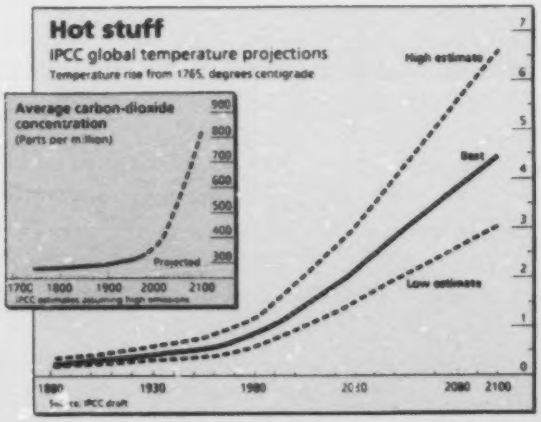
of people, animals and plants over the next century unless emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other "greenhouse" gases are quickly cut by more than 60%.

Three draft reports—on the science, economic and social impacts, and possible strategies for coping with climate change—were distributed to governments by the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**. Their grim conclusions mean that governments will be faced with difficult decisions when they meet this November to start work on a strategy and an international convention to slow global warming.

The IPCC was established by UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization in November 1988 to coordinate and unify the world's scientific and policy-making communities for effective, realistic and equitable action on climate change

When the first report, on the science of global warming, was finally approved May 25th, **British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher broke with the Bush Administration's skeptical, more-research-and-see position** and said if other countries did their part, the U.K. would reduce projected CO_2 emissions by 30% over 15 years. The Chairman of the IPCC, Prof. Bert Bolin, described Mrs. Thatcher's offer to stabilize emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2005 as "very useful" but said, "It is not enough in the long term." Britain's chief meteorologist, Dr. John Houghton, said that "to stop it (global warming), you have to cut by 60% immediately."

Dr. Houghton, who chaired the scientific working group, said only a few of its 90 scientists from 39 countries disagreeed with the findings. He called them dramatic confirmation of how rapidly greenhouse gases have changed Earth's atmosphere since the end of the 18th century.



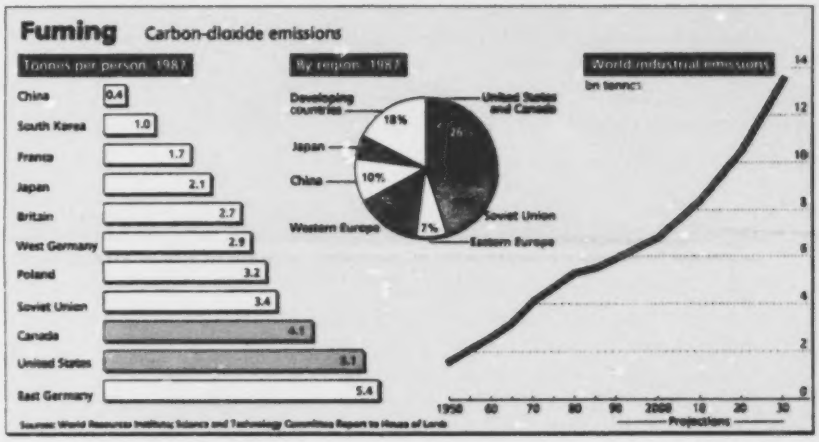
Recent human activities—the growth of population, industry, transportation and agriculture—have inexorably increased CO_2, methane, ozone-eating chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrous oxides and other greenhouse gases. The emissions come from energy use (56.2%), agriculture (21.2%), refrigeration and cooling (15%), natural causes (6.5%), and industry (1%).

If nothing is done, global mean temperature could rise 5.4°F. by the end of the next century, the IPCC reports said, and oceans would expand, polar ice melt and **sea levels rise more than two feet**—25.6 inches—enough to submerge the Maldive Islands and coastal plains and cities. **Millions of people will be forced to migrate. While some fertile land will become desert, parts of the northern hemisphere could benefit,** probably Canada and the Soviet Union, because grain will grow in areas currently too cold to produce cereals. This could have long-term political consequences because U.S. influence is based, in part, on its grain surplus. **Drinking water supplies will be disrupted,** the report said: New Yorkers can expect a 28 to 42% shortfall, which will cost $3 billion to rectify. The Great Lakes may drop by as ➤

best copy available

➤ much as eight feet. **Northern forests**, unable to cope with rapid temperature change, will be damaged and perhaps die. **Air pollution,** especially in cities, is expected to get worse while ozone layer depletion will cause more skin cancers and cataracts in fair-skinned people.

The United States, with 5% of the world's population currently produces one-quarter of all man-made atmospheric carbon dioxide, and it uses more energy relative to its economic size than any western country except Canada. Any world policy to tackle global warming will mean a radical reduction and restructuring of U.S. energy consumption, and require hard political and economic decisions.



Charts from The Economist

Some financial analysts estimate that slowing global warming could cost the U.S. $300 billion a year—the same amount it now spends on the military—with the eventual price tag in the trillions worldwide. However, the Union of Concerned Scientists says, "Such estimates are designed to convince the public that it is too costly to fight global warming." The UCS says, **the reality is that an energy efficiency program could cut carbon dioxide emissions 20% from projected levels in the year 2000 and save $75 billion a year.** If the U.S. government put just $1 billion a year into renewable energy technologies during the 1990s, the group concludes, renewable sources could meet half of America's energy needs within 30 years.

The IPCC reports go to the second World Climate Conference in Geneva this November and to the 45th General Assembly where they will be the foundation for intergovernmental treaty negotiations. **The goal is to have a fully negotiated treaty ready for signing by leaders at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil. Contact Dr. Noel J. Brown at UNEP (212) 963-8138.**

Public opinion polls on the UN rate its performance as good rather than poor, with **environmental protection the most popular UN issue.** An international survey, by Gallup affiliates and International Research Affiliates, was taken in Australia, Canada, Mexico and the 12 countries of the European Community during the last half of 1989 and showed a significant improvement from 1985 when a Gallup poll showed less support.

Surveys in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and South America will be completed by the end of the year.

Contact DPI Program Evaluation and Communications Research Unit (PECRU), Room S-1072, United Nations, New York, NY 10017; telephone (212) 963-5872.

We are each a part of each other—and each a part of all that is. There is a way to remember this. Next time you eat a candy bar, think of this: the chocolate may have come from Ghana, the peanuts from the Sudan, corn syrup from Iowa, sugar from Ecuador, butter from Australia, paper from Canada, fruit from Israel. If it was wrapped in tinfoil, that probably came from Thailand and the coconut from the Philippines. Add all the people together who helped make that candy bar, and it's thousands all over the world who have contributed to your enjoyment.

ROLLAND SMITH, Anchorman, WWOR-TV
UN Youth Environment Forum Keynote Speaker

Urgent consultations on tightening global law to save the ozone layer—the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer—will be held June 27-29 in London.

The original Protocol calls for halving production of CFCs over the next 10 years and reducing the production of halons used as fire suppressants. But scientists meeting in Helsinki last spring presented evidence these cuts were inadequate to protect stratospheric ozone and called for strengthening the Protocol, which was signed in 1987 and which now has some 60 participating countries.

In Geneva this March, delegates preparing for the June meeting agreed to ban the production not only of the five CFCs listed on the protocol but also of 10 other fully halogenated CFCs and carbon tetrachloride by the year 2000. They also agreed to phase out halons by 2000 or 2005.

Their agreement on science was offset by a serious disagreement on finances. The U.S. Administration stunned delegates from other governments by opposing creation of a new $100 million fund to help developing countries switch to substitutes for ozone-destroying chemicals. International financial experts estimate the change-over could cost developing countries $400 million a year for the next 10 years. Due to the high price tag very few developing countries—only 13 by 1989—had ratified the Protocol.

Initially, it was the United States that "persuaded the world to reach agreement on phasing out production of CFCs," *The New York Times* pointed out. "Many developing countries that signed the Montreal protocol of 1987 asked for help in converting to the most costly substitutes, and Washington agreed in principle to provide it."

Delegates at Geneva proposed setting up a fund to which the U.S. would contribute around $20 million a year. The State Department and Environmental Protection Agency urged the Administration to support the proposal, but Budget Director Richard Darman and Chief of Staff John Sununu instructed that it be opposed. The U.S. position on phasing out CFC use in developing countries is that the World Bank and other international lending institutions should administer the change and pay for it without any additional American contributions.

"Every speaker from other countries at the Geneva conference expressed dismay at the U.S. stand. It's glorious to stand alone against the world when one is right, less so to cling to a position that puts the U.S. in the doghouse of world opinion."

"This, the *Times* editorialized forcefully, "is not an intelligent decision, for the following reasons:

- There is only one ozone layer, and there are a lot of people in India and China. It's in America's own interest for these and other developing economies to abandon CFCs as soon as possible. If the price tag is only $20 million, it's a bargain, particularly as the Treasury is reaping windfall profit taxes of $5 billion from the CFC industry as it phases down.
- The considerable damage already done to the ozone layer has been caused by CFCs manufactured in the United States. It's not too much to ask that Americans help less-developed countries avoid the same error.
- Every speaker from other countries at the Geneva conference expressed dismay at the U.S. stand. It's glorious to stand alone against the world when one is right, less so to cling to a position that puts the U.S. in the doghouse of world opinion."

Rather than bilateral or multilateral aid, UNEP favors an independent fund free of conditionality which could be funded, said the coordinator of UNEP's atmosphere program, Peter Usher, by a user's fee on activities that harm the ozone layer. The idea of a such a new fund has the support not only of both Democratic and Republican Senators but also of the industry association that represents CFC producers and users. **For further information, contact Janet Edwards at UNEP (212) 963-8093.**

READEX FICHE

Children and the Environment is the theme of World Environment Day this year. Although the day, June 5th, is celebrated globally, the main event this year was in Mexico City where Mostafa K. Tolba and James P. Grant, the Executive Directors of UNEP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the first time jointly presented a State of the Environment report focused on "Children and the Environment."

"During the 1990s," they said, "a larger number of children will be born on Earth than in any decade before—or later.... We owe them a planet fit to live on and capable of sustaining the future."

The report went on to say, "There are clear moral reasons why efforts to end environmental degradation must focus on children.... Their young bodies make them far more vulnerable than adults to the poisons we spew into the air, and toxins we sow on Earth.... Some 14 million children under the age of five die every year in developing nations as a result of tainted drinking water, poor sanitation, environmental pollution, common diseases and malnutrition." This carnage, the report says, is caused by the failure of our governments to provide for our children.

Among the targets the report outlines for the year 2000 are: immunization against major diseases, primary education and the chance to earn a decent living, an end to malnutrition, infant mortality down by half and life expectancy in the Third World up from 56 to 65.

The report ends with these words: "The state of our children, and the state of our environment, say more than anything else about the state of our civilization and the prospects of our future as a species."

"June 5, 1990 is a proud day for Mexico. On that day the Mexican Government plays host to United Nations' World Environment Day, the purpose of which is to send forth a clear message: *Let us build a better planet for children.*"

This was the message the Government of Mexico wanted to get across in a full-page ad it took in the May 30th *New York Times*. In a three-inch-high headline, **the President of Mexico, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, warned, "If we don't address the issue of global ecology, we won't have to worry about the other issues."**

Among the many Mexican activities scheduled for the day, the most ambitious was that, "a minimim of five million trees will be planted throughout Mexico—as many as possible planted by children. At the same time, a reforestation telethon will be broadcast live via satellite and by radio around the world."

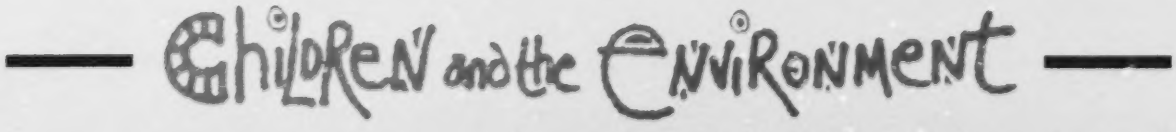
The event "provides an opportunity," the government said, "to break away from our dependence on fossil fuels and start encouraging an international energy policy that supports alternative energy sources and reduces the threat of contamination."

More than 4,000 children from all over the world jammed the United Nations General Assembly Hall May 11th and networked in its corridors for the biggest and by all accounts the best UNEP Youth Environment Forum ever held.

UNEP's program to involve young activists was launched in 1985, but this Forum, coordinator Dulcie deMontagnac said, was "a unique occasion" because the children were there not "to hear promises by adults about what is being done for you" but to share stories with each other on what they, the world's youth, have been doing to conserve and protect the environment.

One story had several chapters, for it was told by a coalition of youngsters from Honduras, Costa Rica and Austin, Texas, who together are cleaning their beaches and cities. Another was by the 4th to 6th graders in Utah who helped get rid of 50,000 barrels of toxic waste and then prodded the state legislature to pass a Superfund bill to clean up the environment. And there was the continuing story of Kids Against Pollution in New Jersey who lobbied the other Forum children to help get an Environmental Bill of Rights through their legislatures at the state and federal levels.

But it was Kids for Saving Earth from Minnesota who showed how much commited children can accomplish. Last year Clinton Hill convinced his fellow sixth-graders at the Sunny Hill School in New Hope they should work together to save the Earth. When Clinton died last November at age 11, his friends became doubly committed. ➤



➤ "We asked big business, 'What are you doing to help us protect this planet?'," said Clinton's friend, John Hagstrand. "And guess what? A big business, Target with stores around the nation, answered our question. That's why we're here today." But it was the kids who kept up the momentum.

Kids for Saving Earth Promise

The Earth is my home.
I promise to keep it
healthy and beautiful.
I will love the land, the air,
the water and all living creatures.
I will be a defender of my planet.
United with friends,
I will save the Earth.

After Clinton's parents wrote the Kids for Saving Earth Promise, it was translated into six languages and, in an interactive presentation via satellite hookup with the UN, a 1,000-member youth chorus and orchestra in Minneapolis gave The Promise its musical world premiere. Millions saw it on superstation WWOR-TV and on United Nations Television. The group then presented a 300-pound book to the UN with a million signatures from youngsters promising to save the Earth. The huge book was opened to a fresh page so that young people at the Forum could also sign before it went to Mexico for the World Environment Day ceremony.

For more information, contact Ms. Dulcie deMontagnac, UNEP, Room S-1094, United Nations, New York, NY 10017; (212) 963-7781; fax (212) 963-4879.

Ten Americans and four Canadians have been honored by UNEP for "outstanding environmental achievement."

The awards, a special feature of World Environment Day ceremonies in Mexico were also given to laureates in 37 countries outside of North America. Established in 1987 to recognize outstanding work in protecting and improving the environment, the awards are called the **Global 500** because UNEP will honor 500 environmental achievers over a five year period, ending in 1991.

The 1990 American winners are:

Dr. Reid Bryson, who, in 1970, founded the Institute of Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin.
Children's Alliance for the Protection of the Environment (CAPE) in Austin, Texas, Honduras and Costa Rica.
Ecology Law Quarterly, University of California at Berkeley, the first (1971) American law school review specializing in environmental law.
Kathryn S. Fuller, President, World Wildlife Fund/Conservation Foundation, Washington, DC, the first woman to head a major U.S. environmental organization.
Dr. Michael Glantz, a pioneer in climate studies, Boulder, Colorado.
The High Country News, a small but influential biweekly newspaper on environmental issues in the Rocky Mountains, Paoina, Colorado.
Milton Kaufmann, a 20-year volunteer activist working particularly with the Monitor Consortium of 33 wildlife and animal welfare groups, Gaithersburg, Maryland.
Dr. Joseph T. Ling, who as senior engineer of the 3M Company devised a profitable pollution prevention system, now used as a model in industry, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Oak Meadow School, Ojai, California, for its 1988 student video, "We Can Make A Difference," which has been seen in the U.S. and Europe.
Dr. Arthur Westing, an ecologist specializing in the environmental effects of military policies, Amherst, Mass.

The Canadian laureates are:

The Snake in the Grass Moving Theatre, founded in 1978 in Richmond, BC, for productions ranging from satires on technology to new ideas in ecology.
Jean Belanger, who as president since 1978 of the Canadian Chemical Producers' Association introduced responsible environmental management to the chemical industry, Ottawa.
David McTaggart, the Chairman of Greenpeace International, the "direct action" organization with three million members in 21 countries, Amsterdam.
Elizabeth May, Executive Director of Cultural Survival-Canada and a lawyer active in environmental issues since 1976, Ottawa. **For a list of all Global 500 winners, call Janet Edwards at UNEP (212) 963-8093.**

The theme for World Environment Day. June 5th 1990

The Environmental Sabbath is held every year on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday nearest World Environment Day. This year it was June 1-3, although it can, and perhaps should, be celebrated at any time.

The goal of the Sabbath is to transform our fundamental relationship with the Earth from destruction to one of redemption. Since UNEP initiated the Environmental Sabbath in 1987, the number of faith communities and others that have embraced these goals and become participants has soared from 1,500 to more than 10,000.

For the 1990 Sabbath, a handsome 68-page guide, "Only One Earth," combines Earth Facts (on the atmosphere, water, land, species, biotechnology, hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals, human health and the quality of life) with suggestions for the celebration: words, songs, prayers and reflections for all faith communities. The book includes a bibliography, an Earth Covenant, a poster that is a personal action guide for the home, and it suggests "101 green things you can do." **The "Only One Earth" Environmental Sabbath guide is available for a $5 contribution to UNEP, DC2-803, United Nations, New York, NY 10017; telephone (212) 963-8138.**

Dial locally, act globally. Electronic updates on the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) are as near as your computer through a new global electronic network of UN information launched on Earth Day, April 22nd.

To use the system you need a computer (any brand), a modem, and a telecommunications software program (often free with the modem).

In Canada, access to UNCED is through:
The Web
456 Spadina Avenue, 2nd floor
Toronto, Ontario M5T 2G8
(416) 929-0634
Fax (416) 461-2886

For UN agencies, departments and missions, access to the UNISER menu and the UNCED Bulletin Board is through DialCom/TCN:
Telecommunications Cooperative Network
505 8th Avenue, Suite 1805
New York, NY 10018
(212) 714-9780

All others in the U.S. can access the UNCED electronic conference through:
PeaceNet/EcoNet
3228 Sacramento Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 923-0900
Fax (415) 923-1665

Global Education Motivators
Chestnut Hill College
Germantown & Northwestern Avenues
Philadelphia, PA 19118-2695
(215) 248-1150

For any other system, dial EcoNet or TCN for information on gateways. For information about electronic networks in other countries, contact Enzo Pullatti, UN Development Program, (212) 906-5426.

The 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil may be the biggest assembly of environmental policymakers in this or any other decade. Not only will 160 United Nations delegations be on hand, but organizers now expect as many as 20,000 activists at the parallel "People's Congress."

The UN Conference was launched last December by the UN General Assembly with a budget of $13.8 million,. Its goal is to devise strategies to halt, even reverse, the effects of environmental degradation by strengthening efforts that promote sustainable, environmentally sound development in all countries.

The conference is being organized and run from a secretariat in Geneva with a unit in New York to liaise with UN bodies and another in Nairobi to work with UNEP headquarters. The preparatory committee, a universal body made up of all 160 UN member states, was to meet five times, twice in New York and Geneva and once in Nairobi. The organizational meeting was held March 5-16 in New York. **The first substantive meeting will be August 6-31 in Nairobi, preceded by a special, three-day session of UNEP's Governing Council.** ➤

➤ In his no-nonsense remarks to the organizational meeting, Conference Secretary-General Maurice Strong cautioned, "The UN and its system of agencies and programmes will be on display in 1992 and must validate the confidence of the international community in its capacity to deal effectively with the key issues on the Conference agenda." He continued: "The debates in the 44th Session of the General Assembly...made clear the **substantial differences which continue to exist in the perspectives and the priorities with which member states approach many of the main issues** to be addressed at the Conference, especially those affecting the relationship between less developed and more developed countries."

The "principal challenge," he said, is ensuring the "very substantial amounts of additional funding and access to technologies which developing countries will require to enable them to pursue development policies and programmes which integrate the environmental dimension and to participate fully in international environmental cooperation. There has been little progress towards consensus on these critical issues as yet. But the need for it is inescapable."

The Economist said the **regional meeting of European and North American environment chiefs** held May 8-16 by the UN in Bergen, Norway, "dwelt less on the philosophy of sustainable development than on the practical threat of global warming" and called it "a rehearsal for two more conferences: in London next month (June 27-29) on ozone-eating chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and in Geneva in November on the 'greenhouse' gases, such as carbon dioxide." The newsweekly concluded that, "The most powerful obstacles to a deal on cutting carbon are in the White House," which ordered U.S. EPA head William K. Reilly not to attend the Bergen meeting.

Other regional meetings leading up to the 1992 conference have been held already or are planned. African nations met in Kampala, Uganda, last June and focused on sustainable development. The Latin America and Caribbean meeting is scheduled for the second week in August in Santiago, Chile, and Asian nations will meet October 10-16 in Bangkok.

Grassroots constituencies began coordinating with the UN and each other well before the General Assembly gave its green light to the conference. The September 13-15, 1989, United Nations annual conference for non-governmental organizations focused on "Environment and Development: Only One Earth" and was the largest NGO gathering ever held at UN headquarters. In February, development NGOs met at UN headquarters to learn how they could get more involved. In mid-March, representatives of 350 groups met in Hungary to plan their input into the Bergen meeting. At the same time, NGO leaders from 40 countries met in Vancouver, Canada, to start work on a grassroots agenda for the UN conference and to start planning their own parallel "people's conference" in Brazil. A follow-up meeting of the heads of 60 major NGOs from every region was held June 3-6 in Geneva at the invitation of Conference Secretary-General Strong and the Centre for Our Common Future, the focal point for NGO activities. Its purpose: planning and coordinating with each other and with the massive UN preparatory process.

For information on the UN conference, contact Jean-Claude Faby at UNEP (212) 963-8098; on NGO initiatives, the UN's Non-Governmental Liaison Service (212) 963-3125, or the Centre for Our Common Future in Geneva (011 22) 732 71 17.

Calendar

June 1-3	Environmental Sabbath	Worldwide	UNEP (212) 963-8138
5	World Environment Day	" "	" "
5	The State of the Environment: A Clear Need for New Partnerships	Atlantic City, NJ	Environmental Hazards Mgt. Inst. (603) 868-1496
7-8	Our Environment: Solutions from Business to Business	Ottawa, Ontario	The Financial Post (416) 596-5681
7-9	The Environment: Global Problems, Local Solutions	Hempstead, NY	(516) 560-5669/5670
20-22	Snowmass Summit on Education, Wildlife and the Environment	Snowmass, CO	Project WILD (303) 444-2390
25-30	Chevrolet Geo-Environmental Program on sustainable development and the UN	San Francisco area, CA	UN Information Office (212) 963-5128

The challenge for industry today is to produce more while polluting less. Developing new, cleaner production methods is a slow process, but progress has been made.

To make this information widely known, UNEP's Industry and Environment Office (IEO) recently created a Cleaner Production Program, a low and non-waste technology network. Its computerized information exchange has a directory of experts, more than 300 case studies, training events and seminars. Anyone with a personal computer and modem can access its information. A printed directory will complement the computer system, and a new quarterly newsletter, Cleaner Production, will soon be published.

A seminar to review progress and to preview future activities will be held September 17-20 in Canterbury, England. The program is funded by Finland, France, Netherlands, U.K., U.S., the European Community and industry associations. **Contact UNEP/IEO, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 Quai André Citröen, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France.**

Too many industries face public outrage, and staggering clean-up bills, because of waste management strategies that took short-cuts in environmental management. In the U.S. alone, as many as 10,000 industrial landfills—many of them environmental time bombs—need remedial action. The bill could exceed $100 billion. Low waste and non-waste technologies are our single most important hope to conserve the environment and heal our ailing Earth. Private sector industry is the center of such hope.

MOSTAFA K. TOLBA, Executive Director, UNEP
in a speech to Globe '90, March 21, Vancouver

UNEP North America News is published bimonthly by the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP mandate is to encourage and coordinate sound environmental practices everywhere. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP is staffed by 170 professionals worldwide. It is supported by voluntary contributions from governments. UNEP offices in this region are:

UNEP North America Office
Room DC2-0803
United Nations, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 963-8093
Fax: (212) 963-4116

UNEP Washington Office
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 289-8456
Fax: (202) 289-4267

***Infoterra*, U.S.:** Linda Spencer
Tel: (202) 382-5917
Canada: Agatha Bystram
Tel: (613) 997-2485

***IRPTC*, U.S.:** Carl Mazza
Tel: (202) 382-3442
Canada: Dr. Peter Toft
Tel: (613) 957-3133

The *Infoterra* network provides national and international environmental information. The *International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)* answers queries about chemicals. Both UNEP services are free of charge. Material from **UNEP North America News** may be reproduced provided the UN Environment Programme is credited. Libby Bassett, editor.

United Nations Environment Programme
DC2-0803 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 2091

Printed on recycled paper

ISSN 0258-5146

UNEP North America News

United Nations Environment Programme

August 1990
Vol. 5, Number 4

Most of the world's nations have agreed to halt production of chemicals that destroy Earth's protective ozone layer. This "new chapter in the history of international relations," as UNEP Executive Director Mostafa K. Tolba called it, was reached June 29th at the London ozone layer conference after 12 days of tough negotiations. It was signed by the European Community and 53 of the 57 countries that ratified the 1987 Montreal ozone treaty, and it was approved by 40 other countries who participated but could not vote. *The New York Times* called it "a landmark agreement."

The conferees agreed to phase out ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons—better known as CFCs—by the year 2000 and to speed the development of safer substitutes. For the first time, a limit was set on the use of two other ozone-depleting gases, methyl chloroform and carbon tetrachloride. Halons used in firefighting also will go in 10 years' time—except where they are irreplaceable.

However, some representatives—from 13 countries—felt the agreement didn't go far enough fast enough. And a few scientists thought that insufficient attention had been paid to recycling the chemicals to prevent their release into the atmosphere and to the potential dangers posed by CFC alternatives.

When the experts began their negotiations June 20th, a week before the high-level meeting, they had before them a text teeming with amendments and adjustments, including 190 square brackets like this [ ] around words, phrases, dates and numbers—all representing disagreements. They had made little headway in removing them when Susannah Begg, an Australian teenager representing the first youth delegation ever to attend an ozone conference, told them and their official delegations on June 27th: "We have been watching you. It has been at times fascinating, at times confusing, at times horrifying.... We have had to keep reminding each other that what is actually being debated here is the future of the ozone layer. This debate has been largely guided by short-sighted commercial gains and national self-interest....Your pursuit of diplomatic compromises is compromising our future....Remember that we will inherit the consequences of your decisions. We will not sign the Montreal Protocol—you will. You will not bear the brunt of ozone depletion—we will. We demand that you think in the long term.... Our fate," she said, "is in your square brackets." All 190 sets of brackets disappeared to make way for a stronger ozone treaty.

> "Remember that we will inherit the consequences of your decisions. We will not sign the Montreal Protocol—you will. You will not bear the brunt of ozone depletion—we will. We demand that you think in the long term."
>
> Susannah Begg, age 17,
> to the London ozone meeting
> June 27, 1990

Another major achievement was the establishment of an international ozone defense fund with a three-year (1991-1993) budget of $160 million. When China and India ratify the Montreal Protocol, another $40 million for each country will be added for a total of $240 million. It is, according to *The Economist*, the first time developed countries have offered cash to developing countries to help them meet environmental goals. The fund will be used to convert factories in developing countries that produce chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone-depleting substances to more ozone-friendly chemicals, to carry out country studies and to train people. **For a copy of the economic conclusions and technical summaries of ozone layer depletion, see Publications on page 5.**

Local government officials from around the world meet at UN headquarters

September 5-8 to start coordinating strategies for a sustainable future. Hundreds of municipal leaders from 50 countries and approximately 100 cities, town, counties and villages are expected at the **World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future.**

"Whether we're talking about garbage or protecting the ozone layer, most environmental problems begin—and can therefore only end—at the local level," said Jeb Brugmann, director of the Congress. "What we need now is a coordinated international strategy among local governments to stop the day-to-day local activities that are threatening our future. This Congress will be the first step in developing such a strategy."

Speakers at the Congress will include U.S. Senator Albert Gore, Dr. James Hansen of NASA, the mayor of Mexico City, Manuel Camacho Solis, and Dr. Noel J. Brown, UNEP North American Director.

The Congress is being held under the auspices of UNEP, the International Union of Local Authorities (based in Geneva), the Center for Innovative Diplomacy, the National League of Cities and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

At the top of the agenda is the expected creation of a new International Secretariat for Local Environmental Initiatives to serve as a policy clearinghouse and technical assistance center. A committee of local government leaders from the Americas, Western Europe, the Soviet Union and India is already drafting the agency's charter.

Conference sponsors include The Dow Chemical Company, The National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Brooklyn Union Gas Company, Edison Electric Institute, Stadtwerke Saarbrucken, Ecology & Environment, Inc., The Greenhouse Crisis Foundation, Conservatree Paper Company, Progressive Assets Management, New York State Department of Economic Development, Groundworks Foundation of the U.K. and others. **To know more, contact conference coordinator Richard Eidlin at UNEP (212) 963-8094.**

Olivia Newton-John has come a long way since *Grease*. Today, the Australian-born singer and movie star is more concerned with cleaning messes up. That is why she has agreed to become **UNEP's Goodwill Ambassador for the environment.**

Her involvement with environmental causes goes back more than a decade. In the late 1970s, she publicly and pointedly canceled a tour of Japan to protest the slaughter of dolphins by Japanese fishermen. Then with the birth of her daughter four years ago, her commitment became even more focused. "When I came home with Chloe, it was amazing. This child in my arms was suddenly the most precious thing in the world. I learned about what I want for her, that I want this beautiful planet to be here for her."

And so, as she tours, she will not just sell songs—and she's sold more than 50 million records—she will try to sell people, from the Arctic to Africa and beyond, on the idea that the future of our planet is in our hands and that together we can make it a more liveable, cleaner and safer place. "It's all well and good to preach," she says, "but you also have to set an example." **Contact: UNEP (212) 963-8138.**

What will come out of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development?

"While it would be premature to anticipate," a Conference organizer wrote recently, the likely outcome could be that world nations agree to:

- specific legal measures to protect the atmosphere and biological diversity;
- develop a statement of principle as the basis for conduct by nations and their people to ensure the future integrity of the Earth as a hospitable home for human and other forms of life;
- create an action agenda—"Agenda 21"—that will establish priorities, procedures, targets and responsibilities for the international community beyond 1992 into the 21st century;
- implement "Agenda 21" by providing resources (e.g., money) and access to technologies, particularly for developing countries, and by strengthening institutions and processes.

These resources and access to new, environmentally sound technologies are "especially critical," Conference organizers say. They see a precedent in "the landmark agreement" reached under UNEP's auspices in June [see story, page 1] on measures to protect Earth's ozone layer. Conference organizers call it "a major milestone in the efforts of the world community to counter global environmental risks." It establishes a trust fund so developing countries can find alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals. It also, they say, "provides strong and hopeful impetus to the even more challenging processes of negotiation which will be the key to the success of the 1992 Conference."

To get these processes started, delegates from all UN member states met this month (August 6-31) in Nairobi for the first substantive preparatory session of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil in 1992. One reason they chose the Kenyan capital is that UNEP is headquartered there.

To get ready for the preparatory committee of all UN member states, UNEP held a special three-day meeting (August 1-3) of its much smaller Governing Council to draw attention to issues it feels should be Conference priorities. The Governing Council also discussed how UNEP could be strengthened so it can better respond to worldwide calls for significant environmental action.

Priority evolving issues, according to UNEP, are:

- climate change and transboundary air pollution,
- protecting oceans and coastal areas,
- combating desertification,
- the African environment,
- biological diversity and the environmentally sound management of biotechnology,
- finding "resources" and funding mechanisms for developing countries,
- environmental economics and technology transfer.

To get ready for the preparatory committee of all UN member states, UNEP held a special three-day meeting (August 1-3) of its much smaller Governing Council to draw attention to issues it feels should be Conference priorities.

Conference organizers contend the Nairobi meetings are particularly important since basic decisons will be made on their work program and agenda for the next two years. The Preparatory Committee also will consider how it can coordinate with other bodies working on similar issues, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which has spent 20 months preparing for the second World Climate Conference this November.

UN agencies, led by UNEP, submitted an "Overview of UN system-wide activities" to this session of the "Prepcom." The Preparatory Committee first met in March at UN headquarters in New York to organize itself; other substantative meetings will be in 1991 in Geneva (March-April and August-September) and in New York (January-February 1992). Already regional preparatory meetings have been held in Kampala, Uganda, for African states and in Bergen, Norway, for European and North American nations. **For information, contact Jean-Claude Faby at (212) 963-5736.**

Serious fun is the idea behind the "Endangered Wildlife Game," a new board game for animal lovers from six to 96.

The game pretends each player is an animal or plant going on a journey around the world. To reach that happy place where all nature is protected, the players must overcome many obstacles: animal traffickers, ruthless wildlife collectors and even being killed by a poacher. Each of the 62 squares represents an actual endangered plant or animal (a list is enclosed with the rules), and a variation for older players is that they can only move to a square after giving its proper name.

The game was developed by UNEP and the Secretariat that oversees the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The board and pieces are printed in four colors, and rules and other information are attached; all you need to supply are the dice. **The Endangered Wildlife Game is available from UNEP; see last page for address and telephone numbers.**

The Children's Environmental Appeal to World Leaders

at the UN Regional Conference for Europe and North America, Bergen, Norway, May 1990

We want to inherit a clean earth.
Why can't we live like you did when you were small?
Play in clean forests, fish in every lake, drink clean water straight from the stream?
Life is more important than money.

We must find energy sources that don't cause pollution. Use more money on research.

Greenhouses are fine, but not round the earth.
We want better, cheaper public transport. Leave the car at home. Use the money from toll charges to protect the environment and improve public transport. Increase petrol prices.

Don't build big shopping centres outside the towns. They only lead to more traffic and more exhaust. Improve the railways. Don't travel so much by plane. Spend more money on cycle paths and footpaths.

Spend money stopping pollution, not on making weapons.
Stop selling products that destroy the ozone layer.
Stop all poisonous emissions. Build cleansing plants whatever the cost.
Help the countries in Eastern Europe to make their industry cleaner.
Stop dumping poison in the sea. The sea can't absorb poison without being harmed.
We want better protection from oil. Make oil tankers safer so that we don't get oil pollution in the sea.
Factories and people that cause pollution must pay fines.
Don't use poison in agriculture.

We must get better at re-using things.
All rubbish must be sorted so that as much as possible can be used again.
Increase the price of environmentally harmful products. Reduce the price of environmentally friendly products.
We don't want rubbish from other countries. We don't want to send our rubbish to other countries.

We want justice. Food must be shared so that everyone has enough.

Wipe out the poor countries' debts. The most important thing is equality between rich and poor countries.
Help the Indians so that they can take care of their rain forests.
Let the people who work on the land manage it themselves. Help local projects.
Let small boats fish grounds.

The earth isn't only there for us. Look after the forests, the animals and the plants.
Protect the animal species that are dying out.
Don't catch all the fish.

All countries must work together to protect the environment.

New Publications

Information kits on **Children and the Environment**, prepared for the launch of the 1990 State of the Environment by UNICEF and UNEP, include summaries of the report and features stories on "The Environment and the Unborn Child" and "Children: First victims of environmental degradation." Free from UNEP (address page 8) while supplies last.

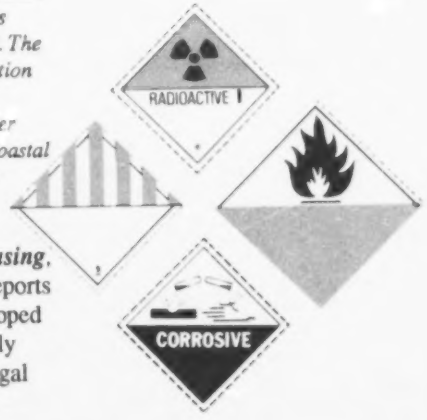
Summaries of ozone layer studies: ***Technical Progress on Protecting the Ozone Layer***—Summaries of the Technical Options Reports on: 1. Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps / 2. Rigid and Flexible Foams / 3. Electronics, Degreasing and Dry Cleaning Solvents / 4. Aerosols, Sterilants and Miscellaneous Use of CFCs / 5. Halons: Fire Extinguishing Agents—***and the Conclusions of the Economic Panel.*** 1989, 8.5"x11", 58 pages, $10 from UNEP Regional Office for North America, address on page 8.

Policymakers Summaries
of the Scientific Assessment of Climate Change. Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group 1. 1990, 8.5"x11", 39 pages, $7.95.
of Potential Impacts of Climate Change. Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group 2. 1990, 8.5"x11", 38 pages, $7.95.
of the Formulation of Response Strategies Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 1990, 8.5"x11", 39 pages, $7.95. All three for $20. Order from UNEP Regional Office for North America, see address page 8.

World Resources 1990-91 is the fourth essential environmental almanac produced by World Resources Institute, in collaboration with UNEP and the UN Development Programme. This edition features new estimates of tropical deforestation, a Greenhouse Index of each nation's contribution to global warming and an analysis of Latin America's interrelated resource and environmental problems. It summarizes the world's most critical environmental problems and provides data tables on 146 countries. 1990, 8.5"x11", 397 pages, $17.95 plus $3 shipping and handling from World Resources Institute Publications, 1709 New York Ave., NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20077-3017, or from Oxford University Press.

Hazardous wastes:
1. ***Handling Treatment and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes,*** #18 of 20 (so far) brief environmental guidelines produced by UNEP. This outline for policymakers sketches a variety of handling and safety options and highlights areas for further study and development. 1990, 5"x8", 36 pages, free from UNEP.
The complete list of guidelines to date is:

1. Pesticide Use on Industrial Crops / 2. Irrigation in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas / 3. Watershed Development / 4. Pulp and Paper Industry / 5. Hides and Skins Industry / 6. Coastal Tourism / 7. Formulation of National Soils Policies / 8. The Restoration and Rehabilitation of Land and Soils after Mining / 9. Afforestation Projects / 10. Agricultural Mechanization / 11. Agroforestry Projects / 12. Farming Systems Research / 13. Rural Roads / 14. Domestic Waste Water Management / 15. Rural Workcamps / 16. Flood Plain Management / 17. Coastal Protection Measures / 18. Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes / 19. Fish Farming / 20. Sand and Gravel Extraction Projects.
Free from UNEP.



2. ***Storage of Hazardous Materials: A Technical Guide for Safe Warehousing,*** #3 in a series of clearly written, well-illustrated (in four colors) technical reports from UNEP's Industry and Environment Office. Designed for use in developed as well as developing countries, its simple and practical guidelines for safely storing and warehousing hazardous wastes focus on key responsibilities, legal frameworks, classifying and labelling products, site location, warehouse management, fire and environment protection. Includes a handy checklist. 1990, 8.5"x11", 80 pages, $19, UN Sales No. 89.III.D.6, from the UN Publications, Sales Section, Room DC2-853, United Nations, New York, NY 10017; (212) 963-8302.

Some of America's best-known artists are drawing together for a special exhibit sponsored by UNEP at the Society of Illustrators Museum in New York October 2nd to 31st.

Artist: Guy Billout

The show will highlight "The Illustrator and the Environment: Art for Survival." Because of their extraordinary ability to illuminate ideas and inspire action, the works of these artists depict not only the threats to our common home but also the beauty and awe-inspiring wonder of our planet.

Already, artists like Jean-Michel Folon (who had a major show this summer at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art), Guy Billout, Milton Glaser, Seymour Chwast and Paul Davis have agreed to participate.

Besides speaking out with their art, each of the 150 participating illustrators has written a $100 check to Earth Island Institute—$15,000 to help its 22 activist groups such as the Climate Protection Institute, International Marine Mammal Project and the US/USSR Environmental Exchange. The Institute was established in 1982 by David Brower after long service with the Sierra Club and after founding Friends of the Earth and the League of Conservation Voters. Mr. Brower, now 77, will be a featured speaker at the show's gala opening.

Wendell Minor, president of the non-profit Society of Illustrators, expects the artworks to be collected in a book and, eventually, to travel to colleges and universities around the continent. **Contact Wendell Minor at (212) 691-6925 or show curator Charlotte Bralds at (203) 868-7577.**

"You're earth-friendly," Women's Wear Daily said. "You check the label on your apparel to make sure it isn't environmentally damaging. You're doing your part...right?"

Not if you're in the fashion industry, according to that industry's daily Bible, which covered the first green get-together in the apparel industry. Sponsored by the Fashion Group International Foundation, the June 14th, 1990 seminar, **"Only One Earth: A Conversation About Fashion and the Environment,"** was hosted by UNEP at the United Nations and featured fashion leaders whose environmental commitment is central both to their products and to their profitability.

"We [in the fashion industry] think we're good people because we're using cotton and natural fibers," said award-winning designer Katharine Hamnett of London. "But," she told the overflow crowd of nearly 400, "for a number of reasons we're among the worst offenders of the environment." One reason is, "The pesticides used in the Third World countries that harvest cotton are among the most harmful chemicals developed." **She urged a cotton-awareness campaign that could lead to the harvest of green cotton, grown with a limited use of pesticides.**

"As trend-makers, we're responsible for trying to change things for the better," said Anita Roddick, founder and managing director of The Body Shop, an international cosmetics company "For instance, our treatment of the Third World countries. We have to offer exchanges. **We can't go into these countries and screw up their environment and change their cultures."** So, she said, she pays Third World countries First World prices for their ingredients and has developed a line of products derived from plants harvested—and replanted—in the Brazilian rainforest. ➤

➤ Kevin Sweeney, public affairs director of Patagonia Inc, said **the California-based company donates 10% of its pretax profits to environmental groups—about $1 million this year.** "For those people who are concerned that being a green company is too expensive, let me put it this way," he said. "We've grown as a company only as fast as we have wanted to grow. And we believe that offering employees an ethical code at work has worked to our advantage. They stay with the company longer, are more energized about working hard, and you end up making more money."

Deborah Patton, the Promotion Director of *M, Inc.* Magazine said afterwards that the green seminar seemed to have made a difference. "It was more than just talking heads. People walked out saying, 'If I don't do something, I'm totally irresponsible.' You could feel the shift in the audience. I expect we'll see a lot more activity in this area." **Contact: Deborah Patton (212) 741-5450.**

Industry has produced an environmental action agenda, which it presented to officials from 34 governments in Europe and North America who met in Bergen, Norway, in May. The occasion was a UN regional meeting to review progress on The Brundtland Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and to begin preparations for the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. An unusual aspect of the Bergen UN meeting was that it included industry, youth and environmental groups from the "independent sector."

The **Industry Agenda for Action** aims at achieving concrete results by the 1992 UN conference. To start with, the industrialists gathered at Bergen urged their peers worldwide to subscribe to the **Environmental Guidelines for World Industry** prepared by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). These guidelines are applicable to industry in developing countries as well as in the most industrialized areas and to private as well as state-owned enterprises, the group said.

Industry leaders at Bergen welcomed the ICC initiative of an **Industry Charter for Sustainable Development**, which would not be simply a pollution prevention code but would also cover the wider concept of sustainable development. The Charter should, they said, be presented for adoption at the second **World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM II)**, which will be held in April 1991 in Rotterdam.

They urged the ICC to convene an international task force to develop an **Action Guideline for Responding to Climate Change** and to report on its progress to WICEM II. It is expected this guideline would include initiatives to increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouses gases, phase out ozone-depleting chemicals, launch reforestation programs, improve nuclear safety, support education and minimize waste production. To meet these goals, the industrialists also asked the ICC to coordinate a sector-by-sector study on energy efficiency.

A major opportunity for environmental improvement, they said, lies in the transfer of environmentally sound technology. So, they asked governments and international organizations to explore, with industry, funding mechanisms and other incentives to make these techologies safely available to users unable to pay for them. They noted that 30 international corporations, members of the International Environmental Bureau set up after the first WICEM, already have agreed to make their environmental technology and know-how available to other companies.

To ensure wider participation in the policy processes leading to the 1992 UN Conference in Brazil, the industrialists suggested an **International Environmental Roundtable** of leaders from industry, governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) convene this fall in Oslo.

They also encourage the development of an **Environmental Management Education Initiative** by companies, governments, academic institutions and UNEP to promote environmental management edcation at business and engineering schools, corporate training center and public administration institutes. **For additional information, contact the UNEP Industry and Environment Office, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 qual André Citröen, 75739 Paris Cedex 15, France, telephone (33-1) 40 58 88 50, or the International Chamber of Commerce, 38 Cours Albert 1er, 75008 Paris, France, telephone (33-1) 49 53 28 28.**

Environment grabbed a lion's share of the Houston Summit agreement last month—even though the leaders of the seven largest industrial economies disagreed on tactics to slow global warming. The Europeans wanted to sharply reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, while the U.S. and Japan instead adopted a diplomatic go-slow policy.

Nevertheless, leaders of the Group of Seven—the U.S., Canada, Japan, West Germany, U.K., France, Italy plus the European Community—said: "We agree that, in the face of threats of irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty is no excuse to postpone actions which are justified in their own right."

"Climate change is of key importance," their communiqué stated. "We are committed to undertake common efforts to limit emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. We strongly support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).... **We reiterate our support for the negotiation of a framework convention on climate change, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)."**

The communiqué continued: "The destruction of ecologically sensitive areas around the world continues at an alarming rate.... To reverse this trend...**we will work within UNEP and other fora...and will participate actively in UNEP's work to protect biodiversity."**

One unforeseen result of the July 9-11 Summit was a proposal to cooperate with Brazil and the World Bank on a pilot program to counteract threats to the Amazon rainforest, a program that, eventually, could be adapted by other countries faced with tropical forest destruction. **And, the leaders said, they are ready to begin negotiations on a global forest convention to be completed for the 1992 UN environment and development conference in Brazil.**

UNEP North America News is published bimonthly by the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP mandate is to encourage and coordinate sound environmental practices everywhere. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP is staffed by 170 professionals worldwide. It is supported by voluntary contributions from governments. UNEP offices in this region are:

UNEP North America Office
Room DC2-0803
United Nations, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 963-8093
Fax: (212) 963-4116

UNEP Washington Office
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 289-8456
Fax: (202) 289-4267

***Infoterra*, U.S.:** Linda Spencer
Tel: (202) 382-3522
Canada: Agatha Bystram
Tel: (613) 997-2485

***IRPTC*, U.S.:** Rachel Van Wingen
Tel: (202) 475-9709
Canada: Dr. Peter Toft
Tel: (613) 957-3133

The *Infoterra* network provides national and international environmental information. The *International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)* answers queries about chemicals. Both UNEP services are free of charge. Material from **UNEP North America News** may be reproduced provided the UN Environment Programme is credited. Libby Bassett, editor.

United Nations Environment Programme
DC2-0803 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 2091

Printed on recycled paper

ISSN 0258-5146

UNEP North America News

United Nations Environment Programme

October 1990
Vol. 5, Number 5

Money—"No matter is more central to protecting the world's environment

than additional funding," UNEP's 1990 report on evolving environmental issues said.

In the 1990s, developing countries will be confronted with finding financing to pay off massive external debts and also to pay for the growing environmental portions of national programs. Yet all signs are that official development assistance is stagnating.

To make a start on this problem UNEP, the UN Development Programme and the World Bank have agreed to set up a Global Environmental Facility, or "Green Fund," of about $1.25 billion. A third round of negotiations on "funding modalities," with representatives from 17 major donor countries and the developing nations—one for each world region—took place September 22-23 in Washington, DC, just before the World Bank annual meeting.

One week previously, on September 17th, the heads of the three UN agencies tried to speed the process when they met in New York to sign a statement pledging they would jointly help developing countries protect the global environnment. They said they would focus on four priority areas: ozone depletion, climate change, biodiversity and international water problems. The three leaders—Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP; William H. Draper III, Administrator of the UN Development Programme; and Barber B. Conable, President of the World Bank—sent a message to the Fund's potential donors and recipients: "a speedy agreement on the Global Environment Facility will advance our agencies' efforts" to help developing countries address these environmental issues. "The U.S. clearly has problems with this," Mr. Conable admitted, "but we're going ahead anyway."

No one knows what the actual cost of tackling global environmental problems will be. One study estimates developing countries will need from $20 billion to $50 billion each year of the 1990s to meet the environmental portion of their sustainable development programs. The $1.25 billion, three-year Global Environmental Facility is "only a start."

"This is an important moment for all of us," Dr. Tolba said. After 10 years of "simply talking about the problems," the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE), which includes UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and regional development banks, is "moving into action."

Right now, Dr. Tolba said, the Green Fund "is a prototype, an experiment...to give us three years experience in how to handle the major environmental problems that confront us." No one knows what the actual cost of tackling these problems will be. A UNDP-World Resources Institute-International Conservation Financing Project report estimates developing countries will need from $20 billion to $50 billion each year of the 1990s to meet the environmental portion of their sustainable development programs. The $1.25 billion, three-year Global Environmental Facility is, Mr. Draper agreed, "only a start." **Contacts: Dr. Noel J. Brown for UNEP (212) 963-8138, Michael Gucovsky at UNDP (212) 906-5044, or Basil Kavalsky at the World Bank (202) 458-0523.**

The public will have a voice in the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development [see story below] through as many as 12 forums being organized worldwide by the Centre for Our Common Future. The forums will be similar to the hearings held on six continents which the Brundland Commission used to prepare its report, "Our Common Future." The forums will provide a channel for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to send their views to the 1992 Conference in Brazil. The first forum was held August 11th in Nairobi where the Conference Preparatory Committee was meeting.

The Centre also launched a newsletter, "Network '92," to put interested people and organizations in touch so they can exchange information and form alliances to influence national and, eventually, international positions.

Contact the Centre for Our Common Future, Palais Wilson, 52 Rue des Pâquis, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel. (022) 732 71 17, Fax (022) 738 50 46.

What Will Be Where In Brazil

The 1992 UN Conference and Affiliated Events

Rio de Janeiro
UN Conference on Environment and Development
Parallel meeting of nongovernmental organizations

Manaus
"Solemn session" of heads of state and government

São Paulo
Technology exhibition of environmental protection equipment and products

Curitiba
Science and technology seminar

Brasilia
Interparliamentary meeting

The foundations of a plan for sustainable development into the 21st century

were set when the committee planning the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) concluded its first substantive session in Nairobi August 31st.

Maurice Strong, UNCED Secretary-General, emphasized that the proposed action plan, "Agenda 21," needed commitment from every government on a wide range of issues. Some 120 governments were represented at the August 6-31 planning session in Nairobi.

The June 1-12, 1992, UN Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, may turn out to be the biggest gathering of environmental policymakers in history. And at least 20,000 environmental activists are expected at a parallel "People's Congress." A wide range of relevant non-governmental organizations (NGOs) participated fully in the Nairobi meeting—a first in the preparation of any UN Conference. The General Assembly has been asked to consider continued full participation by all concerned NGOs in Conference preparatory sessions.

The Conference Preparatory Committee, or Prepcom, adopted guidelines for national reports to the Conference and heard news of regional responses. It also heard from representatives of several non-governmental organizations, who held a parallel forum in Nairobi [see story above].

Secretary-General Strong suggested the 1992 Conference be organized under six categories:

- International legal conventions already negotiated and ready to be signed (those expected include a climate convention and one protecting biodiversity);
- An Earth Charter with basic principles for the conduct of peoples and nations toward each other and the earth;
- Agenda 21 with concrete measures for implementing a work program into the 21st century;
- Financial resources for Agenda 21 so that all countries can comply with sustainable development policies and international environmental laws;
- Technology transfer so that all countries, especially developing countries, have access to and training in environmentally sound technologies on an equitable and affordable basis; ➤ ➤ ➤ ➤

● Strengthening institutions that examine environment and development issues at the policy level for better coordination and collaboration.

The Prepcom asked that 70 reports be prepared for their next meeting March 18 to April 5, 1991, in Geneva on the six categories outlined above and a wide variety of interlinking environment and development issues. The planners also requested major assessments on combating deforestation, protecting oceans and seas, and managing hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals. Reports also are expected on protecting the atmosphere and land resources, conserving biological diversity and managing biotechnology. Priorities in all of them are the cross-cutting issues of financing, training and the transfer of technology at affordable prices.

Questions of financing continued to be divisive. "Sensitivities were very high," one official said. "The developing countries were so vocal they were making the United States even more conservative." Bolivia, speaking for the developing countries' Group of 77, said new sources of financing must be provided on top of present levels of official development assistance. The U.S. and several other industrial countries disagreed, preferring the control of bilateral funding in an era of budget deficits.

Fundamental changes in the nature, dynamics and direction of the development process are likely over the next decade and beyond. Recognizing this, Mr. Strong annnounced the Secretariat would undertake a study followed by a symposium to examine how the synthesis between environment and development can be achieved through policy options and practical measures. **UNCED contact, Jean-Claude Faby (212) 963-5900.**

The U.S. EPA is funding an information data-sharing program with the English-speaking developing countries of southern Africa, which is being coordinated by INFOTERRA, UNEP's worldwide environmental information service. It is the first such program in the world.

This "companion relationship" between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Botswana's Ministry of Local Government and Lands "may serve as a blueprint" for others, INFOTERRA believes. EPA has donated $66,000 to a UN trust fund for computers and for training Botswana's environmental information officers.

"It's a symbiotic relationship," said Linda Spencer, INFOTERRA information officer at U.S. EPA. The goals are to:
● improve environmental decision-making in southern African countries through increasing the availability of relevant information; and
● improve the ability of EPA policy-makers and planners to assess the global impact of their decisions and to be effective partners in technology transfer to the Third World.

INFOTERRA headquarters in Nairobi reports that similar companion relationships are being worked out between Portugal and environmental information centers in the Portuguese-speaking African countries of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tome and Principe. **Contact Linda Spencer (202) 382-3522.**

Do you know an environmental activist who deserves recognition? Why not nominate him, her, or them for UNEP's **Global 500 awards for environmental achievement**? It is called the Global 500 because, like the environment, its scope is global and UNEP will make 500 awards between 1987 and 1991, which means this is the last year for nominating outstanding environmentalists to this prestigious honor roll.

The deadline for nominations is November 15th, and the winners—selected by a panel of experts—will be announced at a special ceremony on World Environment Day, June 5, 1991. **For a nomination form call UNEP at (212) 963-8093 or (202) 289-8456.**

The World Summit for Children was unique and historic. Summit meetings usually bring superpowers together to jointly set political, military or economic agendas. But the September 29-30 World Summit was **the biggest gathering of world leaders in the history of humankind.** More than 70 heads of state met at United Nations headquarters in an extraordinary effort to save the world's most neglected natural resource: children.

It also was the first time that national leaders from all around the globe had met for a single common purpose, to give children priority on governmental agendas in the 1990s. The 1990s are critical since—after thousands of years of steady increase—the number of annual births in the world will peak around the year 2000 and then begin to decline. The children of the 1990s will be the largest generation in history.

Most of the 14 million preschool-age children who die every year in the developing world—and the 150 million who are malnourished—are victims of environmental degradation. The UN has determined that unclean water and unsafe sanitation are responsible for three-quarters of all diseases and for most children's deaths in the developing world. "It is the greatest condemnation of our times that more than a quarter of a million children should still be dying every week of easily preventable illness and malnutrition," UNICEF said. Action to protect children—cleanwater wells, safe latrines and health education—UNEP argues, is also action for basic environmental improvement in communities throughout the world.

Contact UNICEF World Summit Mobilization, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017; tel: (212) 326-7522.

Impatient with their national governments, municipal officials from 44 countries met at the UN in September and agreed they must act on their own to deal with global warming and other fast-growing environmental threats. Leaders from nearly 200 municipalities attended the September 5-8 Congress.

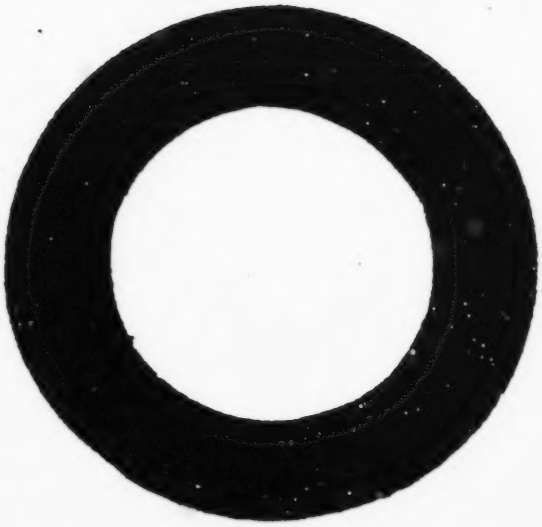
The 450 mayors and other municipal leaders agreed to form a new group, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, to provide mutual help in coping with water pollution, waste disposal, tree loss and the greenhouse effect—all problems with local, national and international impacts.

One imaginative initiative was described by Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis of Mexico City, the largest and perhaps the most polluted city in the world. **A loan from the Interamerican Development Bank will reduce Mexico's foreign debt by $150 million and, in a form of debt-for-nature swap, the money will go to plant 200 million trees on 150,000 acres of barren Federal lands surrounding the city.** The new forests will stop soil erosion, protect water quality, provide recreation and, Mayor Camacho said, reduce the threat of global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide.

Toronto may be the first big city in the world to have its own program to slow global warming. Mayor Art Eggleston said Toronto would reduce carbon dioxide emissions 20 percent over the next 15 years by expanding mass transportation, creating commuter bicycle lanes, requiring new standards for energy efficiency and conservation and planting trees on a large scale, among other measures.

From the PBS series, "Race to Save the Planet."

An organizer of the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future said the cities' new coordinating Council should be in business by October 1991. Several cities were put forward for the Council secretariat. The choice of a headquarters will be made by a 21-person Executive Council of municipal leaders from every world region and representatives from UNEP, the International Union of Local Authorities and the Center for Innovative Diplomacy, under whose auspices the Congress was held. **Contact the Center for Innovative Diplomacy, 45 Rice Street, Cambridge, MA 02140, tel. (617) 491-6124**



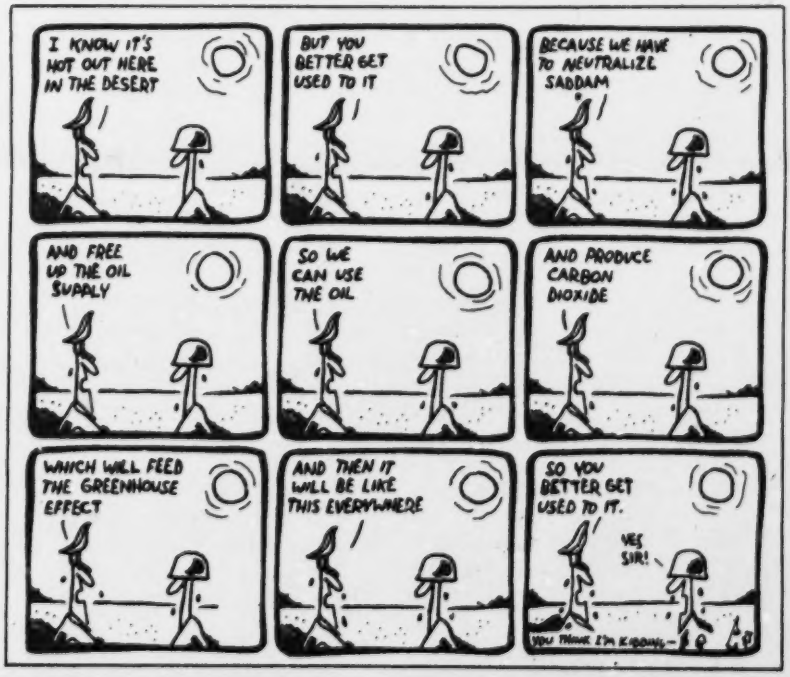
The first overview assessing global warming was recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization set up in 1988 to coordinate the work of more than 1,000 scientists and policymakers worldwide.

"We are certain of the following," their overview says:
- "There is a natural greenhouse effect which already keeps the Earth warmer than it would otherwide be.
- Emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases...."

As for impacts, "The predicted population explosion will produce severe impacts on land use and on the demands for energy, fresh water, food and housing, which will vary from region to region according to national incomes and rates of development. In many cases, the impacts will be felt most severely in regions already under stress, mainly the developing countries."

Developing response strategies presented "formidable difficulties for policymakers," the overview says, since information for sound policy analyses and action is "inadequate" due to uncertainties about the effectiveness of response options to actually avert potential climate change, as well as financial uncertainties about cost and the effects on economic growth and social well-being.

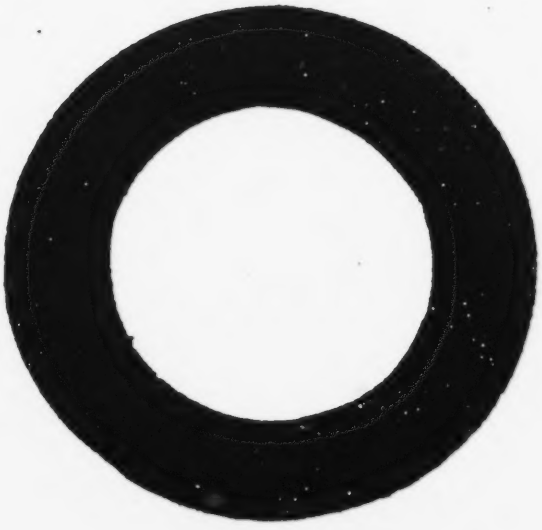
The scientists' and policymakers' report says: "There is no single quick-fix technological option for limiting greenhouse gas emissions.... A comprehensive strategy...is necessary." Yet, the overview maintains, "The potentially serious consequences of climate change give sufficient reasons to begin adopting response strategies that can be justified immediately even in the face of significant uncertainties. The response strategies include:
- phasing out of CFC [chlorofluorocarbon] emissions and careful assessment of the greenhouse gas potential of proposed substitutes [for the ozone-depleting chemicals];
- efficiency improvements and conservation in energy supply, conversion and use, in particular through improving diffusion of energy-efficient technologies, improving the efficiency of mass-produced goods, reviewing energy-related price and tariff systems to better reflect environmental costs;
- use of cleaner, more efficient energy sources with lower or no emissions of greenhouse gases;
- sustainable forest management and afforestation; and - review of agriculture practices."


I KNOW IT'S HOT OUT HERE IN THE DESERT
BUT YOU BETTER GET USED TO IT
BECAUSE WE HAVE TO NEUTRALIZE SADDAM
AND FREE UP THE OIL SUPPLY
SO WE CAN USE THE OIL
AND PRODUCE CARBON DIOXIDE
WHICH WILL FEED THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT
AND THEN IT WILL BE LIKE THIS EVERYWHERE
SO YOU BETTER GET USED TO IT.
YES SIR!

The IPCC urges industrialized countries to "cooperate with developing countries in international action...by contributing additional financial resources, by appropriate transfer of technology, by engaging in close cooperation in scientific observation, analysis and research, and finally by means of technical cooperation geared to forestalling and managing environmental problems."

One problem, global population growth—from 2.5 billion to 8.5 billion in the lifetime of a 75-year-old born in 1950—"will be a major factor in causing the projected increase in global greenhouse gases." The overview says "It is essential that global climate change strategies take into account the need to deal with [this] issue." **For a copy of the Overview, 20 pp., send US$5 to UNEP North America in New York, address on page 6.**

Tom Toles, Buffalo News



The 1,000 biggest multinational corporations in the world are being surveyed on their environmental policies, programs and management techniques by the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations, in preparation for the UN Conference on Environment and Development slated for Brazil in 1992.

Corporation/ Country	Sales of MNC/GDP* of Country (in billions of US$)	Corporation/ Country	Sales of MNC/GDP* of Country (in billions of US$)
Belgium	$ 148.7	Norway	$ 90.3
Austria	126.9	*Exxon*	87.3
Mitsui & Co.	117.0	*Royal Dutch Shell*	78.4
General Motors	110.0	*Nissho Iwai*	72.9
C. Itoh	108.5	*IBM*	59.7
Denmark	107.6	*Mobil*	54.4
Finland	104.8	Greece	52.8
Sumitomo	103.6	*Toyota Motor*	50.4
Marubeni	96.1	*Sears, Roebuck*	50.3
Mitsubishi	93.3	*Hitachi*	44.7
Ford Motor	92.5	New Zealand	42.0
		Portugal	41.8

*Gross Domestic Product is the total of goods and services produced domestically in a year. (GNP minus foreign trade in goods and services equals GDP.) MNC is the acronym for multinational corporations.

Source: "The Global 1000," *Business Week*, July 17, 1989; and OECD, *Main Economic Indicators*, October 1989.

The survey will be sent to 800 firms with 1988 revenues exceeding $1 billion as well as the world's 200 largest service firms. Questions cover the use of raw materials, transport and disposal of hazardous waste, use of radioactive products, environmental standards and corporate compliance with them. Another section of the survey measures money spent on environmental initiatives and asks when they were implemented.

For information contact Harris Gleckman, (212) 963-3160, at the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations.

From the Council on International and Public Affairs

UNEP North America News is published bimonthly by the United Nations Environment Programme. The UNEP mandate is to encourage and coordinate sound environmental practices everywhere. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP is staffed by 170 professionals worldwide. It is supported by voluntary contributions from governments. UNEP offices in this region are:

UNEP North America Office
Room DC2-0803
United Nations, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 963-8093
Fax: (212) 963-4116

UNEP Washington Office
1889 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 289-8456
Fax: (202) 289-4267

***Infoterra*, U.S.:** Linda Spencer
Tel: (202) 382-3522
Canada: Agatha Bystram
Tel: (613) 997-2485

***IRPTC*, U.S.:** Rachel Van Wingen
Tel: (202) 475-9709
Canada: Dr. Peter Toft
Tel: (613) 957-3133

The *Infoterra* network provides national and international environmental information. The *International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)* answers queries about chemicals. Both UNEP services are free of charge. Material from **UNEP North America News** may be reproduced provided the UN Environment Programme is credited. Libby Bassett, editor.

United Nations Environment Programme
DC2-0803 United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Address Correction Requested

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEW YORK, NY
PERMIT NO. 2091

Printed on recycled paper

COURTESY OF UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME